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**DAVE THOMAS FOUNDATION FOR ADOPTION RECOGNIZES BEST
ADOPTION-FRIENDLY WORKPLACES IN THE GOVERNMENT INDUSTRY**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Today, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption announced the seventh annual list of the Best Adoption-Friendly Workplaces in the government industry. City of Carmel, Ind., and Commonwealth of Kentucky tied for the No. 1 spot.

“Kentucky is again honored to be recognized by the Dave Thomas Foundation,” said Tim Longmeyer, Secretary of the Kentucky Personnel Cabinet, which administers the program for the Commonwealth. “We strive to provide progressive benefits to our employees, and we’ll continue to search for ways like these to support an atmosphere of work-life balance, wellness and opportunity. I can’t think of a better way to support our employees who choose to adopt.”

The City of Carmel and Commonwealth of Kentucky provide their employees with up to \$5,000 per adoption.

“It is vital for adoptive parents to spend time with their children to bond and develop trust,” said Rita Soronen, President and CEO of the Foundation. “Employers who offer adoption benefits understand the initial needs of adoptive families are no different than families formed biologically. And family-friendly work environments create strong and loyal workforces.”

Every year the Foundation announces America’s top 100 adoption-friendly employers, the top 10 by size, and the leaders in each industry from its annual survey of U.S. employers. The list is determined by an analysis of a company’s adoption benefits, including the maximum amount of financial reimbursement and paid leave for families who adopt. The Foundation partners with *Employee Benefit News*, a SourceMedia publication that is the leading source of information for benefits decision makers, to announce the winners.

The list recognizes organizations of every size and industry that offer adoption benefits. Employers who applied for the list offer an average of \$7,000 and four weeks of paid leave. Financial reimbursement varies from \$500 to \$25,300, and one to 18 weeks of paid leave. Unpaid leave for adoption, beyond what is required by the Family and Medical Leave Act, ranges from one week to three years.

There are more than 100,000 children in the U.S. foster care system waiting to be adopted. Every year, more than 26,000 children in foster care turn 18 and age out of the system without families. The seventh annual Best Adoption-Friendly Workplaces List helps increase foster care adoption awareness while celebrating businesses that support adoptive families.

The Wendy's Company is No. 1 overall on this year's list, with a combination of up to \$25,300 in adoption assistance and up to six weeks of paid adoption leave. To view the full list, visit adoptionfriendlyworkplace.org. (Editor's note: The Foundation is not an affiliate of The Wendy's Company.)

If your organization does not offer adoption benefits, order the Foundation's free kit, which makes it easy to propose and establish a policy in your workplace. To apply for the 2014 Best Adoption-Friendly Workplaces List, complete the Foundation's adoption benefits survey: adoptionfriendlyworkplace.org.

Follow the Foundation's social networks for news and updates:

- Facebook [<http://www.facebook.com/DaveThomasFoundationforAdoption>]
- Twitter [<http://twitter.com/DTFA>]

Government industry rankings:

1-Tie. City of Carmel, Indiana

1-Tie. Commonwealth of Kentucky

About the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption is a national nonprofit public charity dedicated exclusively to finding permanent homes for the more than 134,000 children waiting in North America's foster care systems. Created by Wendy's® founder Dave Thomas, who was adopted, the Foundation implements [evidence-based](#), results-driven national service programs, foster care adoption awareness campaigns and advocacy initiatives. To learn more, visit davethomasfoundation.org or call 1-800-ASK-DTFA.

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